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Pest Alert

United States
Department of
Agriculture
Forest Service
Northeastern Area
NA-FB/P-21
NOV 20 1981

GYPSY MOTH



LARVA hairy caterpillar with 5 pairs
May-June of blue spots and 6 pairs of
red spots along the back.



PUPAE dark brown to black; female
July-August larger (right) than male (left).



ADULTS BY
EGG MASS male brown; non-flying female
July-August is white with small brown
markings.



EGG MASS small larvae emerge the
August-May following May.

The gypsy moth has been a primary defoliator of hardwoods in the Northeastern United States since its introduction in 1869. Although Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, and New England are generally infested, isolated infestations have been noted in some North Central, Southern, and Western Seacoast States and are now subject to eradication by the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Oaks are the preferred host species but most species of trees and shrubs are defoliated by the gypsy moth when the preferred host is not available or has been completely defoliated. However, ash, tulip poplar, locust, and sycamore are not attacked and black walnut is seldom attacked.

The potential spread of this insect is extremely high. The host range is extensive and artificial spread of the insect has increased the already high rate of dispersion by natural means. Artificial spread, the movement of egg masses and pupae on nursery stock, forest products, equipment, and all types of vehicles, can be reduced by close inspection of articles moving from infested to non-infested areas.



Send reports of damage to:

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